

[30 November, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) how would Government save the people from the harmful effects of their exposure to this radioactive waste material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Indo-US civilian nuclear co-operation

*138. SHRI NANDI YELLIAIH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many member countries of European Union and member countries of Nuclear Suppliers' Group are opposing civilian nuclear cooperation between India and USA;

(b) If so, the complete details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the efforts made/proposed to be made by Government to bring such countries in favour of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The position of different members of the European Union and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) with regard to civil nuclear cooperation is evolving. While some countries like UK, France and Russia have expressed their support, others are yet to formalise their position. This is an ongoing process.

(c) While the US is working on the NSG to adjust its guidelines to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India, Government has taken up the issue bilaterally with a number of NSG member countries, including during summit level interactions. An Indian delegation made a -presentation to the NSG Consultative Group meeting in Vienna in October, 2006. As a result of our efforts, several important countries of the NSG have expressed their understanding for the initiative.

Upgradation of NH-17

*139. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NH-17 passing through Goa is proposed to be upgraded/ widened;

- (b) if so, the cost involved in the project;
- (c) whether necessary land have been acquired in Goa;
- (d) whether the construction work has commenced; and
- (e) if not, by what date work is likely to commence and completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRIT R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The entire NH-17 in Goa from Maharashtra to Goa border and from Goa to Karnataka border for a length of 139 km. has been approved for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for upgradation/widening under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Invitation of bids for the consultancy services for preparation of feasibility-cum-preliminary design for 4/6 laning of this stretch has been invited by National Highways Authority of India. The last date of submission of bid is 30.11.2006. The requirement of land acquisition, cost of construction and schedule of construction depend on the outcome of feasibility-cum-preliminary design for 4/6 laning of this stretch.

Four laning of NH-5 in Orissa

*140. MS. SUSHILATIRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NH-5 Chennai-Kolkata which passes through Mayurbhanj District in Orissa served as a life line to the tribals of Mayurbhanj District;
- (b) whether under the four laning measure National Highway-5 has been bifurcated near Balasore;
- (c) whether Mayurbhanj figures in the four laning of the Highway map of the country;
- (d) if so, whether there is any proposal to upgrade the present NH-5 from Balasore to Kolkata *via* Baripada and also to make it four lane; and
- (e) if so, the tentative period to start the project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.